

SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF ACTION
March 12, 2009

The School Budget Review Committee met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the Department of Education, ICN Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146.

- 1. Committee Informational Items.** Reviewed the decisions of the previous meeting and the financial condition letters that were sent.
- 2. Decorah Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$167,308 for legal fees and start up costs of a new CTE program at the middle school. Denied modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$40,352 for costs of a new elementary section.
- 3. Clear Creek-Amana Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$1,203,666 for costs associated with opening a new school building which had been authorized by the voters.
- 4. Essex Community School District.** Accepted the district's proposed plan to deduct the auditor's adjustment to budget enrollment over the next three budget years.
- 5. Preston Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$13,113 for costs associated with completion of an asbestos project, and in the amount of \$10,229 for a new teacher librarian position. Denied modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$10,144 for costs associated with new testing and approaches to teaching and learning.
- 6. Cedar Rapids Community School District.** Tabled modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$1,649,648 for costs associated with an unusual loss of students displaced as a direct result of a natural disaster until the September 2009 meeting. The loss of funding associated with the loss of students is realized in 2009-2010.
- 7. Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$3,513,427 for costs associated with unreimbursed losses to district facilities due to a natural disaster.
- 8. Central Clinton Community School District.** Denied modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$88,736 for costs associated with an increase in enrollment after count date.
- 9. Moulton-Udell Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$10,828 for costs associated with a new teacher librarian. Denied modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$6,000 for costs associated with improving its library collection.

- 10. Clarion-Goldfield Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$5,648 for costs associated with excess costs of transporting a regular education student to a court-appointed day program outside the district.
- 12. Jesup Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$7,321 for excess costs of providing a Limited English Proficient instructional program.
- 13. Dike-New Hartford Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$11,950 for excess costs of providing a Limited English Proficient instructional program.
- 14. South Hamilton Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$11,298 for excess costs of providing a Limited English Proficient instructional program.
- 15. Knoxville Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$30,866 for excess costs of providing a Limited English Proficient instructional program.
- 16. Clarke Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$60,480 for excess costs of providing a Limited English Proficient instructional program.
- 17. Mount Vernon Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$35,497 for excess costs of providing a Limited English Proficient instructional program.
- 18. Central Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$76,848 and received and accepted the district's corrective action. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.
- 19. Corwith-Wesley Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$102,096 and received and accepted the district's corrective action. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

20. Prairie Valley Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$419,183 and received and accepted the district's corrective action. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

21. Riverside Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$27,303 as part of the district's corrective action plan and received and accepted the district's corrective action plan. Denied modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$95,000 for on-time funding of a new operational function sharing arrangement. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to analyze its financial position more closely, seeking assistance if necessary, to prevent incurring a negative unspent balance in any future year. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

22. Sibley-Ocheyedan Community School District. Approved the request for modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$45,834 and received and accepted the district's corrective action plan. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

23. South Clay Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$21,239 and received and accepted the district's corrective action. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

24. Woden-Crystal Lake Community School District. Tabled the request for modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$134,323 pending the district's conducting a feasibility study in accordance with Iowa Code sections 256.9(34) and 275.2. Advised the district to approach other sharing partners that could lead to a viable reorganization and that will ensure that the district will be able to offer appropriate educational opportunities for all of its students and will have a positive unspent balance by the end of fiscal year 2009-2010. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the

SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

25. St. Ansgar Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$605,217 for its corrective action plan and received and accepted the district's corrective action plan. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting. Encouraged the district to request members of the Department of Education School Finance Team to accompany the School Improvement Team when the Phase I site visit is conducted during the 2009-2010 school year to review progress on its corrective action plan.

26. Algona Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$61,389 and received and accepted the district's corrective action. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

27. Exira Community School District. Tabled modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$305,275 until the next regular meeting and received and accepted the district's corrective action plan. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

28. Pekin Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$167,652 and received and accepted the district's corrective action. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

29. Special Education Balances. Approved modified allowable growth for a special education deficit for eligible districts that have made requests, certified the positive and negative balances of funds for each school district to the department of management subject to further department review, and directed the director of the department of management to make the payments to school districts as outlined in Iowa Code subsection 257.31(14)“b”.

30. Special Education Weightings. Accepted the recommendation of the director of the Department of Education relating to the special education weighting plan, which is to leave the weighting plan unchanged with weights of 0.72, 1.21, and 2.74 in addition to the 1.0.

31. Special Education Administrative Costs. Approved the use of special education funds for administrative costs of special education programs for the districts approved by the Department of Education and listed in the exhibits, excluding Ames, Centerville, Charles City, Estherville-Lincoln Central, Manning, Newton, and Southeast Polk.

32. Rockwell City-Lytton Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$351,166 for its corrective action plan and received and accepted the district's corrective action plan. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting. Approved modified allowable growth in the amount of \$16,469 for the 2007-2008 start up costs for a new program. Denied modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$142,413 for on-time funding of a new dropout prevention program, and in the amount of \$37,459 for decrease in funding from state portion of Instructional Support Program, and in the amount of \$34,673 for the second year of a new program.

33. Spirit Lake Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$442,916 and received and accepted the district's corrective action plan. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

34. Nishna Valley Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$101,252 and received and accepted the district's corrective action. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority. These reports shall be available to the SBRC and to the auditor on request. Directed the district to provide a progress report on its corrective action plan to the SBRC at its September meeting.

35. Ames Community School District. Tabled the request for modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$51,877 for expenditures in excess of revenues for home school assistance instructional programming during the fiscal year 2008-2009 until the May meeting and tabled the request for modified allowable growth in the amount of \$130,382 for the fiscal year 2009-2010 until fiscal year 2009-2010.

36. Indianola Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$927,839 for initial staffing associated with

opening a new school building. Denied modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$265,031 for initial staffing and start up costs associated with implementing an all day, every day kindergarten program.

37. Southeast Polk Community School District. Tabled the request for modified allowable growth for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$525,446 for start up costs associated with opening a new school building until the first regular meeting of the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

38. Returning Dropout/Dropout Prevention Programs. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2009-2010 school year in the total amount of \$106,817,837 for the 362 districts that have approved applications for Returning Dropout and Dropout Prevention programs, pending further Department review. These numbers reflect Department review to date.

39. Federal Iowa Demonstration Grant Approvals. Approved the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program awards for all other districts as recommended to the SBRC by the task force, pending receipt of evidence from the districts that any local match requirements and other requirements have been met. In the event that any award is declined or other unexpended funds become available before June 15, 2009, the Department will award a grant to the next highest ranked district or districts to the extent that the funding is made available.

40. Late Application for Open Enrollment Out Not on Previous Headcount. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the total amount of \$123,120 for A-H-S-T and in the total amount of \$105,556 for St. Ansgar for tuition costs incurred for open enrollment students not included on the previous year's certified enrollment report for eligible districts making requests.

41. CAR non-filers. Directed the Department to notify districts that have not completed and certified their 2008-2009 Certified Annual Report that they are required to appear before the SBRC at the December 2009 meeting to outline, at a minimum, the procedures that they will implement to prevent late filing of future reports.